

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Human ICE LAP-6 polypeptides and DNA (RNA) encoding such ICE LAP-6 and a procedure for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques is disclosed. Also disclosed are methods for utilizing such ICE LAP-6 for the treatment of a susceptibility to viral infection, tumorigenesis and to diseases and defects in the control embryogenesis and tissue homeostasis, and the nucleic acid sequences described above may be employed in an assay for ascertaining such susceptibility. Antagonists against such ICE LAP-6 and their use as a therapeutic to treat Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, septic shock, sepsis, stroke, chronic inflammation, acute inflammation, CNS inflammation, osteoporosis, ischemia reperfusion injury, cell death associated with cardiovascular disease, polycystic kidney disease, apoptosis of endothelial cells in cardiovascular disease, degenerative liver disease, MS, ALS, cererbellar degeneration, ischemic injury, myocardial infarction, AIDS, myelodysplastic syndromes, aplastic anemia, male pattern baldness, and head injury damage are also disclosed. Also disclosed are diagnostic assays for detecting diseases related to mutations in the nucleic acid sequences and altered concentrations of the polypeptides. Also disclosed are diagnostic assays for detecting mutations in the polynucleotides encoding the interleukin-1 beta converting enzyme apoptosis proteases and for detecting altered levels of the polypeptide in a host.